Sale of Wheat

1443. SHRI JAGESH DESAI : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to State :

(a) the quantum of wheat sold by Food Corporation of India in open market during the last six months;

(b) the quantun of wheat sold to cooperatives;

(c) whether any condition were laid as to whom it has to be sold any the period within which it was to be sold; and

(d) what was the impact of sale of wheat on prices in the open market on account of the sale ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) Under the open sale, which restarted from October. 1991, about 654 lakh tonnes of wheat has been sold by FCI upto January, 1992.

(b) Out of the quantity referred to above. about 24000 MT of wheat has been sold to Government controlled Organisations, including cooperatives.)

(c) Thc open sale, which is made on a monthly basis, is open to roller flour mills, whole meal milling atta chakkis, atta chakkis. bread manufacturers and Government controlled organisations.

(d) The sale in the open market was made as measure of market intervention with a view to contain market price of wheat.

Allocation of wheat to Uttar Pradesh

1444. DR. SANJAYA SINH : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Uttar Pradesh had been alloated only 50,000 mctric tonnes of wheat and only 30,000 metric tonnes of Rice by the 'Centre' which were far short of the actual requirement of the State in this regard, as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 31st January, 1992 in the news item entitled "Uttar Pradesh demands higher quota of Grains";

(b) if so, what are the detail in this regard;

(c) whether Government propose to raise the quota of wheat and rice for Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) if so, by when, and if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) to (d) The allocation of wheat from the Central Pool to Uttar Pradesh for the public distribution system has since been increased from 54,000 tonnes in January, 92 to 75,000 tonnes per-month for February and March, 92. Similarly,the allocation of rice has been increased from 28,000 tonnes in January, 92 to 30,000 tonnes per month for February, and March, 92.

Prices of Cereals

1445. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the current prices of cerals in the open market in different parts of the country along with the preceding year's prices during the same preiod;

(b) whether any efforts have been made by Government to make cereals available to those below the poverty line at lower price;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) A statement showing the retail prices of cereals (rice and wheat) at selected centres as on 26-2-92 and 27-2-91 is attached. *(See below).*

(b) to (d) Wheat and rice are sold through Public Distribution System to ration card holders, that includes those below poverty line at subsidized rates.